REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 20 have each been amended to recite that the manual actuator that is used to manually move said one component(e.g., the focusing lens 216 in FIGs. 11-12) is also used to manually actuate the scanner. This is illustrated in FIG. 12 where the trigger 230 is used for two purposes: one to manually initiate reading, and the other to manually move one of the components that optically modify light.

This is not true for the applied art.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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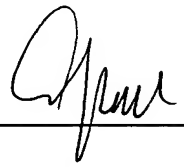

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1 & 20

1. A portable instrument for electro-optically reading coded indicia over an extended range of working distances, comprising:

a) a housing having a size and a shape configured to be held in a user's hand during reading;

b) a plurality of electrical and optical components supported by the housing, for directing a light beam along an optical path toward the indicia for reflection therefrom and for detecting light reflected from the indicia over a field of view, one of the components being movable between first and second positions in which said one of the components is operative for optically modifying at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at first and second optical areas, respectively, another of the components being an actuatable scanner for scanning said at least one of the light beam and the field of view; and

c) a manual actuator mounted on the housing for actuation and movement by the user, the actuator being mechanically connected to said one of the components and being operative for manually directly moving said one of the components along the optical path between the first and second positions during joint movement with the actuator to selectively optically modify said at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at the first and second optical areas, respectively, the actuator being further operative for manually actuating the scanner to initiate reading.

20. A portable instrument for electro-optically reading coded indicia over an extended range of working distances, comprising:

a) a housing having a size and shape configured to be held in a user's hand during reading;

b) a plurality of electrical and optical components supported by the housing, for directing a light beam along an optical path toward the indicia, one of the components being movable between a first position in which said one of the components is operative for focusing the light beam at a first focus located in the range, and a second position in which said one of the components is operative for focusing the light beam at a second focus located in the range, the first and second foci being located at different working distances relative to the housing, another of the components being an actuatable scanner for scanning said at least one of the light beam and the field of view; and

c) a manual actuator mounted for actuation and movement by the user on the housing, the actuator being mechanically connected to said one of the components and being operative for manually directly moving said one of the components along the optical path between the first and second positions during joint movement with the actuator to selectively focus the light beam at the first and second foci, respectively, during reading, the actuator being further operative for manually actuating the scanner to initiate reading.